

# HEALTHY HOMES

## Product Awareness and Action

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Make sure your home  
is a **healthy** one.



# What is the Healthy Homes Campaign?

- The campaign is an initiative developed by the **Environmental Committee of the Delaware Cancer Consortium**
- The Environmental Committee is one of seven committees actively working to reduce cancer in Delaware through outreach and treatment
- The Cancer Consortium Accomplishments Report can be viewed on the DPH website  
<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph>



# Focus of Healthy Homes

- The US EPA has found that indoor air contains more chemicals and higher levels of chemicals versus outdoor air
- Encourage reduced use of current household chemicals and to find safer alternatives
- Deter “Off-label” uses and misuse
  - Moth balls in vacuum bags and furniture
  - Not diluting cleaners as directed
  - Not using adequate ventilation

**LIMIT YOUR  
EXPOSURE.**  
REDUCE YOUR CANCER RISK.

# What Chemicals Cause Cancer?

The US Department of Health and Human Services listed **58** compounds as “*Known to be Human Carcinogens*” and **188** compounds as “*Reasonably Anticipated to be a Human Carcinogen.*”

Some *known carcinogens* are:

- Alcoholic Beverages
  - Asbestos
  - Benzene
  - Coal Tar
  - Estrogens
  - Tobacco Smoke
  - Radon
  - Smokeless Tobacco
  - Solar Radiation
  - Wood Dust
-

# What's in My Home Product?

## ■ Read the Label

- ☐ List of ingredients – often incomplete or “proprietary”
- ☐ Manufacturer contact information

## ■ Contact the Manufacturer

- ☐ Telephone
- ☐ Web site
- ☐ Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

## ■ Refer to Product Databases

- ☐ Consumer Products Safety Commission
  - ☐ National Institutes of Health
  - ☐ Product registries
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# A Note About Labels

- Only manufacturers know what's in their products and they're not legally obligated to reveal their formulas to the public.
  - Household items are regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Product labels need only warn consumers about any immediate dangers that may occur if a product is misused.
  - Manufacturers also need only list "the common or usual or chemical name of the hazardous substance, or of each component, which contributes substantially to (this) hazard."
  - Sounding harmless, the labeling term "inert" refers to the fact that the ingredient doesn't have a role in the product's stated function. A cleaner may have only one or two "active" ingredients that are responsible for doing the physical dirt removal, but will contain many other inert ingredients.
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# Label Warning Signal Words

The required label warning "signal" words:

- **Danger** or **Poison** means that from a few drops to 1 teaspoon, if ingested, can be life threatening.
- **Warning** means that ingesting 1 teaspoon to 1 ounce can be life threatening.
- **Caution** means that more than 1 ounce must be ingested before life threatening symptoms will occur.

What's missing from these labels are warnings about less immediate hazards and information about the other ingredients.

For example, of the approximately 1,400 chemicals the EPA allows manufacturers to call "inert", 40 are known carcinogens and/or neurotoxins, and 64 are believed to be potentially toxic.

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# Consumer Product Databases

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“ScreenShots” of Example Databases



# Household Products Database

National Institutes of Health  
National Library of Medicine  
Specialized Information Services



Home

Products

Ingredients

MSDS

 **Quick Search**

## Browse & Search

- [Products](#)
- [Ingredients](#)
- [Material Safety Data Sheet \(MSDS\)](#)

## Support Pages

- [About](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Other Resources](#)

## Health & Safety Information on Household Products

What's under your kitchen sink, in your garage, in your bathroom, and on the shelves in your laundry room? Learn more about what's in these products, about potential health effects, and about safety and handling.

Information in the Household Products Database is taken from a variety of publicly available sources, including brand-specific labels and Material Safety Data Sheets ([MSDS](#)) prepared by manufacturers.

### Find a product...

For advice if someone is poisoned, call your local [Poison Center](#) at (1-800-222-1222).



[Specialized Information Services](#) U.S. National Library of Medicine,  
8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894  
[National Institutes of Health](#), [Department of Health & Human Services](#)  
[Copyright](#), [Privacy](#), [Freedom of Information Act](#), [Accessibility](#)  
Customer Service: [tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov)  
Last updated: May 12, 2004

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm>



# U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

HELP | ADVANCED SEARCH

[ESPAÑOL](#)

[WHAT'S POPULAR](#)

[ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)

[PUBLIC CALENDAR](#)

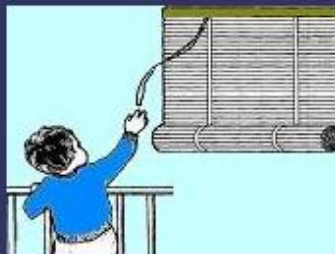
[JOBS AT CPSC](#)

[CONTACT US | DIRECTIONS](#)

[NO FEAR ACT DATA](#)

## CPSC's Most Wanted:

- [Window Blinds](#)
- [Lane Cedar Chests](#)
- [Old Cribs](#)
- [Cadet Heaters](#)



▼ Consumer Safety

► About CPSC

► Library - FOIA

► Business

[MP3](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [RSS](#) | [Safety Tips](#) | [Video Clips](#) | [Wireless](#)

## Recalls and Product Safety News

Help keep your family safe by checking product recalls and safety news from CPSC.

## Report an Unsafe Product

Report an incident with a product that caused an injury. Medical Professionals and Fire/Police Investigators: file MECAP, incident reports.

## Sign Up for Email Announcements

Be among the first to receive new recalls and safety information. Enroll for this free service.

## Neighborhood Safety Network Signup (Español)

Help all Americans become aware of lifesaving safety information.

## Voluntary Standards/Research Reports

CPSC promotes safety by participating in, and preparing information about, voluntary standards activities for a wide range of consumer products.

## CPSC Publications

View and order CPSC publications on a wide variety of consumer safety issues.

## Recent Recalls

- [Magnetic Building Sets](#)
- [Toy Cars](#)
- [Lighters](#)
- [Espresso Machines](#)
- [Toy Jewelry](#)
- [Toy Pliers](#)
- [Battery Chargers](#)
- [Bracelets \(Español\)](#)
- [Toy Jewelry](#)



## What's Hot

- [Helmets Can Save Lives and Reduce Injuries](#)
- [CPSC Poison Prevention Launch 2006](#)



## All-Terrain Vehicle Safety

- [CPSC Announces ANPR on ATVs](#)
- [CPSC's Latest Report on ATV Deaths and Injuries](#) (pdf)



<http://www.cpsc.gov/index.html>





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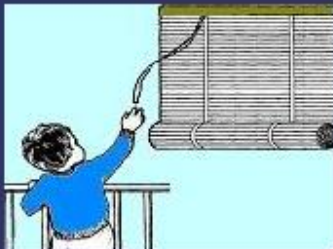
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## CPSC Publications [\(Publicaciones en Español\)](#)

→ [Find Publications by Specific Topic](#)

→ [Find Publications by Title](#)

→ [Find Publications by General Category:](#)

- [All Terrain Vehicles Safety](#)
- [Art and Crafts Safety](#)
- [Bicycle Safety](#)
- [Child Safety](#)
- [Children's Furniture](#)
- [Clothing Safety](#)
- [Consumer Product Safety Review](#)
- [Crib Safety and SIDS Reduction](#)
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- [Older Consumers Safety](#)
- [Outdoor Power Equipment Safety](#)
- [Playground Safety](#)
- [Poison Prevention](#)
- [Pool & Spa Safety](#)
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→ [Order Neighborhood Safety Library Publications, Handbooks, and Reports by E-mail:](#)

All CPSC publications – including exclusive web-only content – are available to consumers to print for free from their home, school or office computers through the category links above. To order hard copies of any of the Neighborhood Safety Library Publications or Technical Reports and Handbooks listed in the general categories above, please send an email to [info@cpsc.gov](mailto:info@cpsc.gov). Be sure to include your mailing address, and specify the document number and name of the publication desired. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

[http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pub\\_idx.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pub_idx.html)



**Delaware  
Department of  
Agriculture**

### **Pesticide Database Searches**

The following selections will search the Delaware Dept. Agriculture databases of pesticides. This information is compiled solely from pesticide registration data submitted by companies who wish their products to be sold in the state of Delaware, combined with data from the EPA with regard to ingredients, pests and sites.

**Please select from the following options**

[Search by Company Name](#)

[Search by Company ID](#)

[Search By Product Name](#)

[Search By Product EPA ID](#)

[Search By Pest](#)

[Search By Site](#)

[Search By Pesticide Type](#)

[Search By Formulation Type](#)

[Search By Active Ingredient](#)

[Search By Multiple Criteria](#)

[Search By Restricted Use \(RUP\)](#)

[Show all SLN Products](#)

[Home](#) [KellySolutions.com](#) Search By: [Company Name](#) [Company ID](#) [Product Name](#) [Product EPA ID](#) [Active Ingredient](#) [Pest](#) [Site](#) [Formulation](#) [Pest-type](#) [RUP](#) [Multiple Criteria](#)

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[www.state.de.us/deptagri](http://www.state.de.us/deptagri)

<http://www.kellysolutions.com/de/>

# Are the Ingredients Harmful?

Refer to Health Agencies and Organizations for information of specific chemicals such as:

- ❑ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) - [www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)
  - ❑ National Toxicity Program - <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov>
  - ❑ Division of Public Health [www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/index.html](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/index.html)
  - ❑ Department of Agriculture - [www.state.de.us/deptagri](http://www.state.de.us/deptagri)
  - ❑ Center for Healthy Housing - [www.centerforhealthyhousing.org](http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.org)
  - ❑ GreenFacts.Org - [www.greenfacts.org](http://www.greenfacts.org)
  - ❑ American Cancer Society - [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)
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# Chemical Hazard Databases

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“ScreenShots” of Example Databases



#### Toxic Substances & Health

- > [ATSDR Home](#)
- > [ATSDR en Español](#)
- > [A-Z Index](#)
- > [Data Resources](#)
- > [Education & Training](#)
- > [Emergency Response](#)
- > [Hazardous Waste Sites](#)
- > [Publications & Products](#)
- > [Special Initiatives](#)
- > [Toxic Substances](#)

#### About Us

- > [About ATSDR](#)
- > [Calendar](#)
- > [Contact Us](#)
- > [Employment](#)
- > [Funding](#)
- > [Press Room](#)
- > [Regional Offices](#)

## Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT ATSDR



#### National Ground Water Awareness

Do you know where your drinking water comes from? Learn more about your drinking water source...[more](#)

#### Final Report on Oak Ridge High School

ATSDR concludes that current exposures to naturally occurring amphibole asbestos from campus soil have been minimized...[more](#)

#### Save the Date

The seventh National Environmental Public Health Conference will be held from December 4th - 6th...[more](#)

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances.

#### [ATSDR en Español](#)

Trabajando, ayudando, sirviendo y educando...[más](#)

- ☐ [Email this page](#)
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### Quick Links

- > [Toxicological Profiles](#)
- > [ToxFAQs™](#)
- > [ToxFAQs™ CABS](#)
- > [Find Health Assessments and Consultations](#)
- > [Case Studies in Environmental Medicine](#)
- > [Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance](#)
- > [A-Z Index](#)
- > [National Center for Environmental Health](#)

### Key Resources

[ATSDR Congressional Justification](#) [PDF, 396KB]

[What You Can Expect From ATSDR](#) [PDF, 100KB]

## Standard US EPA Cancer Classification

[Standard US EPA classification \(1986\)](#)

[Standard EPA classification categorization descriptions](#)

[EPA cancer guidelines evolution \(1986-2003\)](#)

## Standard US EPA classification (1986)

Chemicals or other agents in the environment assessed by [US EPA](#) (Environmental Protection Agency) are classified in five groups based on the existing scientific evidence for [carcinogenicity](#).

### Group A: "Human Carcinogen"

There is enough evidence to conclude that it can cause cancer in humans.

[EPA definition](#)

### Group B1: "Probable Human Carcinogen"

There is limited evidence that it can cause cancer in humans, but at present it is not conclusive.

[EPA definition](#)

### Group B2: "Probable Human Carcinogen"

There is inadequate evidence that it can cause cancer in humans but at present it is far from conclusive.

[EPA definition](#)

### Group C: "Possible Human Carcinogen"

There is limited evidence that it can cause cancer in animals in the absence of human data, but at present it is not conclusive.

[EPA definition](#)

### Group D: "Not Classifiable as to Human Carcinogenicity"

There is no evidence at present that it causes cancer in humans.

[EPA definition](#)

### Group E: "Evidence of Non-Carcinogenicity for Humans"

There is strong evidence that it does not cause cancer in humans.

[EPA definition](#)

You have entered a page of the

## GreenFacts Website

The explanatory box to the left is intended to explain a concept used in a GreenFacts study.

GreenFacts studies are faithful summaries of scientific consensus documents on Health and the Environment.

### Our current studies are:



[Static Fields](#)



[Alcohol](#)



[Phthalates](#)



[GM Crops](#)



[Respiratory Diseases](#)



[Ecosystem Change](#)



[Tobacco](#)



[Aspartame](#)



[Arsenic](#)



[Fisheries](#)



[Climate Change](#)



[Air Pollution](#)



[Power Lines](#)



[Dioxins](#)



[Endocrine Disruptors](#)



[Fluorides](#)



[Water Disinfectants](#)



[Boron](#)



[Mercury](#)



# Are There Safer Alternatives?

- Agency and Organization Information
  - Ask local merchants about stocked items
  - Internet search for terms such as “safe, natural, eco friendly, nontoxic, green, products” – but “Buyer Beware” and investigate ingredients of items for sale
-